

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

This "cover" page added by the Internet Archive for formatting purposes

THEORY OF THE EARTH

BY J. H. VAN DIJK

THEORY OF THE EARTH

News

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
HELENA, MONTANA

VOLUME 19, NO. 10

JULY 1991

Montana Chosen To Host 1992 Arbuthnot Lecture

The Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC-ALA) has approved an application from the Montana State Library and the Montana Center for the Book to host the 1992 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture. The selection was announced July 3 in Atlanta during the annual ALA conference. The lecture, to be delivered by children's author and educator Charlotte Huck, will take place during the MLA conference in Bozeman, April 26-29, 1992.

Huck pioneered the use of children's literature in the classroom and has written several textbooks on the subject. She also has authored children's books, most recently *Princess Furball*. Huck lives in Redding, Calif.

The Arbuthnot Lecture was set up in 1969 by Scott, Foresman and Co. to honor May Hill Arbuthnot, an authority on children's literature. ALSC-ALA administers the lecture, which is presented at a different site each year by an outstanding author, critic, librarian, teacher or historian of children's literature.

Montana also applied to host the 1991 Arbuthnot Lecture but lost out to the Children's Literature Center in Washington, D.C. The 1991 lecture was delivered to an overflow crowd at the Library of Congress on April 19 by British folklorist Iona Opie.



U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., met with members of the Montana State Library Commission during ALA Legislative Day, April 16, in Washington, D.C. Shown with Burns are, from left, Lloyd Wallin, Anne Hauptman, Mike Schulz and Commission Chair Mary Doggett. ALA's annual Legislative Day is an opportunity to lobby the Congressional delegation on library issues.

Nominations Reopened For School Librarians

The State Library Commission has reopened the nominations for school librarians to the statewide Collection Management and Technology Committees. Since schools have dismissed for the summer, the assistance of others is sought in obtaining school library nominees.

If you know of a school librarian who would be interested in serving on either committee, please have them contact Mary Jane West at the State Library, 444-3115, by July 26 so they can be sent the necessary form. The Commission will appoint members of these two committees at the August 14 meeting in White Sulphur Springs.

These committees, which must be geographically balanced between east and west Montana, will meet no more than four times each year, and members' travel costs are paid by the State Library.

Handicapped Included In Summer Reading Plan

The Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped has mailed bibliographies of about 100 bear-related children's cassette books to public libraries and branches so eligible visually and/or physically handicapped kids may participate in the statewide Summer Reading Program through their local libraries. Call Carolyn Meier at 444-5397 for more information.



Volunteers honored for more than five years of service during a Volunteer Luncheon on May 17 at Jorgenson's Restaurant in Helena: (1st row, left to right) Chuck Wirth, Ethel Bergseng, Eileen Finley, Sig Barnes, Doris Brander. (2nd row, left to right) Chuck Laib, Mae Cottrill, Fern Flanagan, Ann Kombol, Lea Blunn, Dawn Berger. (3rd row, left to right) Judy Hames, Jeanette Folsom, Howard Bloom, Bob Andre, Gladys Bloom, Rob Rouse.

Special Luncheon Honors State Library Volunteers

Twenty-two volunteers were awarded plaques and recognized for five or more years of service to the State Library's Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped at the annual appreciation luncheon held in their honor on May 17.

To show appreciation to the volunteers, library staff gave each one an individually decorated miniature mailbox with the volunteer's name painted on it.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was Bill West, audio books specialist from the National Library Service in Washington, D.C. Christopher Sellers played guitar, and Mike Logan (author of *Bronc to Breakfast* and *Laugh Kills Lonesome*) recited selections of his cowboy poetry.

Attending along with the 60 volunteers and spouses were Mary Doggett, chair of the State Library Commission, Richard Miller, state librarian, and staff representing each program at the State Library.

In 1990, volunteers at the State Library and inmate employees from the Prison Recording Program contributed a total of 10,047 hours of service, with an in-kind contribution of \$94,091.

Libraries Wanted For Poetry Programming

The Modern Poetry Association, in cooperation with the American Library Association, is looking for 20 libraries that wish to take part in a poetry programming demonstration project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Deadline is September 6 to apply to host the 5- to 10-week series "Poets in Person." Reading and Talking About Contemporary Poetry in America's Libraries.

For an application, write "Poets in Person" Project Applications, Modern Poetry Association, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL, 60610, or call Deb Robertson at the American Library Association, 312-280-5057.



Cowboy poet Mike Logan of Helena recites selections from his works *Bronc to Breakfast* and *Laugh Kills Lonesome*.

New Children's Book Award Winners Named

Winner of the first annual "Treasure State Award" for Montana children in grades K-3 was *The Dragon Nanny*, by C.L.G. Martin. Runners-up were *What Happened to Patrick's Dinosaurs?* by Carol Carrick, and *Johnny Applesseed*, by Stephen Kellogg.

More than 3,000 kids from all across the state voted on the list of nominated books, said Bette Ammon of the Missoula Public Library. She and Carole Monlux of School District One in Missoula originated the award.

Mark Lancaster, a third-grader from Helena, came up with the name for the award.

Voting on the 1992 Treasure State Award will take place during the first two weeks in March (the same time as the Young Reader's Choice Award). Ballots may be sent to Ammon at Missoula Public Library, 312 E. Main, Missoula, 59802, or to Monlux, School District One, 215 S. 6th West, Missoula, 59801.

Nominees for the 1992 award are: *Shoes From Grandpa*, by Mem Fox; *Cinderella*, by Barbara Karlin; *A Hippopotamus* 'n', by Patrick Lewis; *Cock-A-Doyle Dudley*, by Bill Peet, and *Sky Dogs*, by Jane Yolen.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade level for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level (with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating), the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

The War Began at Supper: Letters to Miss Loria, by Patricia Reilly Giff (reviewed by Joyce G. Johnson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Using letters from second graders to their former student teacher, Miss Loria, Giff explores the young students' feelings about the Persian Gulf war and highlights activities surrounding it such as yellow ribbons, writing to service people and protest marches.

Beginning Jan. 2, 1991, the letters reveal the fears and misconceptions of children whose lives are being touched by a faraway war. The title comes from the chilling first sentence in Alice's letter, dated Thursday, Jan. 7, 1991: "A war got started while we were having supper last night."

The book will still be timely for those youngsters whose parents or loved ones were or still are in the Gulf or for those who suffered trauma and anxiety from the televised war of 1991.

(Grades 1-5; Q4/P3; Delacorte Press, New York; 1991; 70 pp.; \$11.00)

Robots, Your High-Tech World, by Gloria Skurzynski (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, Lincoln Elementary School, Helena).

This is a well-done, up-to-date overview of robotics and its history. The excellent color illustrations convey as much information as the text, which doesn't require any technical background, though a good vocabulary is necessary.

The book amazed and frightened me: "Certain scientists have begun to believe that someday, robots will

be able to work without any human input at all, making every necessary decision to run themselves, by themselves." (page 50).

(Grades 5-up; Q3/P3; Bradbury Press, \$15.95; ISBN 0-02-782917-0.)

The Revenge of the Magic Chicken, by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger (reviewed by Richard Miller, State Librarian).

A follow-on book to the earlier *The Wizard, the Fairy, and the Magic Chicken*, this title employs the same characters. The plot centers on a wizard with a moon wand, a fairy with a star wand and the magic chicken with a pickle. Sound silly? Well, it is, as the three try to prove each is better than the other two and try to "out magician" each other. The plot seems a bit thin and so close to that of the earlier book that this appears to be an attempt at a money-making sequel rather than anything new.

The illustrations are wonderful, carrying the book, and are funny enough to look at without the text. In general, this book will be very popular with the younger set but is unlikely to last through too many readings because of the thin plot.

(PS-2; Q2/P4; Houghton Mifflin, Boston; 1990; 32 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 0-395-50929-7.)

Ask Me Something Easy, by Natalie Honeycutt (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt, Information Resources Director, Montana State Library).

This book follows the life of Addie Dillon from the time she is 7 until she is 17. Life at 7 seemed perfect; she had her mother, dad, Dinah, and the twins; everyone was relatively happy. Then daddy left--why? No one really knows. Some such as Dinah and mother don't seem to care. This is a sad tale of a young adolescent with multiple "family" problems. Well written but of limited appeal.

(Grades 5-8; Q3/P2; Orchard Books; 1991; 152 pp.; \$13.99; ISBN 0-531-08494-9.)

I Hate Camping, by P.J. Petersen (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

Dan is not excited about going camping with his mom's boyfriend, Mike, and his two children, Raymond and Kim. In Dan's estimation, Raymond is a know-it-all and Kim is a non-stop talker. Besides, Dan doesn't care for bears, mosquitoes or camping. Regardless, Dan's mom insists that he go on this overnight trip.

Mike's snoring, a circuitous midnight trip to the bathroom, a friendly dog and a detour to an amusement park add up to a camping trip that even Dan really enjoys, but he probably won't admit it--at least not to his mom.

Both children who hate camping and those who love it will find something to enjoy in this book. Children living in single-parent families will identify with the three youngsters and their problems.

(Grades 2-3; Q2/P3; Dutton, New York; 1991; 84 pp.; \$12.95.)

The Street Dancers, by Elizabeth Starr Hill (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

"There's no business like show business," but young Fitz Wolper isn't altogether certain that it's the right business for her. Fitz is a street performer. She and her parents constitute the "Wolper Windups," a mime troupe entertaining passersby on the streets of New York City. Her grandfather, Clement, is the most successful member of this show-biz family. He has a featured role in a Broadway show, and his paycheck is the Wolper's primary source of income.

Whenever Fitz is not actually performing, her life is a constant search for jobs in plays, television commercials and soap operas. She crams her education into an hour or two of daily study at home. Fitz longs to be a "regular" kid and go to public school with her friends, but she fears letting her family down. When Clement has a stroke and is unable to work, the pressure

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

becomes much greater and makes Fitz's dream of a "normal" life seem even more distant.

This slim novel from the author of *Evan's Corner* gives young people an excellent "behind-the-scenes" look into the difficult, often heart-breaking world of the professional entertainer. Highly recommended for all young readers with an interest in the performing arts.

(Grades 5-9; Q3/P3; Viking Penguin, New York; 170 pp.; \$13.95.)

Sheep in a Shop, by Nancy Shaw (reviewed by Marilyn Taylor, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Another winner for the sheep and Nancy Shaw. The illustrations by Margot Apple are simply wonderful. We find the sheep off shopping for the perfect birthday gift, and by the time they are through, the little general store will never be the same.

This is just as much fun, maybe even more so, than the other sheep books, and children will delight in the rhythm and rhymes of the tale. The illustrations are to be enjoyed by young and old alike; the book is a delight for all.

(PS; Q4/P4; Houghton Mifflin; 1991; \$12.95; ISBN 0-395-53681-2.)

Fox Under First Base, by Jim Latimer (reviewed by Barb Benish, librarian, Montana City Schools).

This author takes painstaking care to use words precisely and to create endearing characters. The very charming illustrations enhance the gentleness that spills from each little animal. Unfortunately, at times the words impede the smooth progression of plot.

The story is about James Bear's befriending of Gerald Fox, whose penchant for collecting baseballs has recently brought him under the scrutiny of the long arm (or quill) of the law. Enter Detective Chief Inspector Porcupine, a muffled, lozenge-eating female version of Columbo. What follows is a gentle romp through the woods of story-

land with some interesting baseball trivia hiding beside the path.

I read this story to two children. After several pages and a disarmingly clear and simple description of the game of baseball by Porcupine, the 11-year-old remarked that this book "wasn't just for younger kids." And, at the end of the story, he wanted to know more about "Shoeless Joe," a player mentioned in the text. In contrast, the 7-year-old was still listening to the ending but beginning to climb around. I'd definitely recommend this book for elementary collections, with emphasis on ages 8 through 11.

(Grades 2-5; Q4/P3; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1991; 29 pp.; \$13.95.)

John and the Fiddler, by Patricia Foley, illustrated by Marcia Sewell (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln Elementary School, Helena).

Yet another in the recent rash of sweetly sentimental stories of children's friendship with the dying elderly, this book is written for the third to fifth grade audience. John's friend, Mr. MacLoegaire, gives him a violin and teaches him how to play. No sooner are their bonds formed than Christmas approaches and the old man gets pneumonia. With the exchange of gifts, the build-up to the bittersweet end is obvious and nicely timed for tears.

This is in the same format and by the same illustrator as *Stone Fox* but without the smooth, read-aloud action. I doubt if readers will receive it as well, regardless of its slight 60 pages and simple vocabulary. Subjects: friendship, death, Christmas, violins.

(Grades 3-up; Q3/P2; Harper & Row; 1990; \$12.89; ISBN 0-06-021842-8.)

Frog in the Middle, by Susanna Gretz (reviewed by Cathy Siegner, Publicity/Youth Services Specialist, Montana State Library).

A trio of friends--Rabbit, Frog and Duck--usually goes along well, but the green-eyed monster of jealousy seems to appear whenever two of

them pair up and leave the third one out.

Things change when Frog lets it slip that she has a birthday coming up. Each of the friends finds out that it's hard to be jealous when you're doing nice things for others.

This is an entertaining and creative way to show that friendships do continue in spite of that left-out feeling every young child has experienced.

(Gretz featured the same three characters in the earlier *Duck Takes Off*; she also authored the Teddy Bears series of books--*Teddy Bears Cure a Cold* and *Teddy Bears Go Shopping*.)

(Grades PS-2; Q4/P4; Four Winds Press, New York; 1991; unpagged; \$12.95; ISBN 0-02-737471-8.)

Ruby, the Red-Hot Witch at Bloomingdale's, by Marlene Fanta Shyer (reviewed by Cathy Siegner).

When Petra and her younger brother Thomas meet Ruby, the in-store witch at Bloomingdale's, she manages to come up with a cure for Thomas' nervous hiccups, but the kids have some questions as to whether her magic can do what they want most: bring their separated parents back together.

But have faith. Ruby calls on her Necromantic Carpet, a flowering bloom-bulb, her special "glue" that binds people together through thick and thin (YASMINE-for You Are Still MINE), and even the benevolent ghosts of Lyman and Joseph Bloomingdale. How could mere mortals resist?

Thirteen-year-old Petra is an engaging heroine with the kind of courage and daring to act on her and her brother's fondest wish, no matter how improbably wild the methods. Her internal monologues reminded me of how astute and sensitive adolescents can be.

Shyer, the author of the young adult novel, *Welcome Home, Jellybean*, has produced a well-written and entertaining book.

(Grades 5-8; Q4/P3; Viking, New York; 1991; \$13.95; ISBN 0-670-83473-4.)

Press Roundup

Bears are cropping up all over the place in libraries' summer reading programs (SRP) this year. Montana libraries using the State Library's first statewide SRP theme ("Get the 'Bear' Facts - Read!") include:

Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton; **Seeley Lake Branch Library**; **Polson City Library**; **Hearst Free Library**, Anaconda; **Lewis & Clark Library**, Helena; **Harlowton Public Library**; **Henry Malley Memorial Library**, Broadus; **Meagher County-City Library**, White Sulphur Springs; **Wedsworth Memorial Library**, Cascade; **Choteau Public Library**; **Parmly Billings Library**; **Sheridan Public Library**; **Laurel Public Library**; **Fallon County Library**, Baker; **Miles City Public Library**; **John Gregory Memorial Library**, Whitehall; **McCone County Library**, Circle; **Augusta Community Library**; **Phillips County Library**, Malta; **Lewistown City Library**; **Kohrs Memorial Library**, Deer Lodge; **Moore Memorial Library**; **Madison Valley Public Library**, Ennis, and **Plains Public Library**.

The **Miles City Public Library** has asked for \$16,000 from the Coal Board to repair part of the library's roof; a decision is expected in August.

"Alfonso" the llama made an appearance during SRP sign-up at the **Madison Valley Public Library** in Ennis.

Lewistown City Library held its first annual children's carnival and book sale on June 22.

Kids got to see a 13-foot-long python up close at the **Missoula Public Library** June 18.

A variety show in mid-June benefited the **North Valley Library Foundation**, Stevensville. The library also held a book sale during Western Days in June.

Literacy programs are in place at the **Plains Public Library** and at **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge.

Great Falls Public Library may open on Mondays this fall.

The **Sanders County Commission** unanimously approved formation of a **Plains Library District**.

A rummage sale in late May raised \$278 for the **Havre-Hill County Library**. About 30 kids took part in a bug race there on June 28.

Butte-Silver Bow Public Library is asking for a \$121,425 county budget increase to pay for added expenses at its new building.

About \$35,000 more needs to be raised to help pay for a new **Boulder Community Library**.

Self-help videos were donated to the **Valier Public Library**.

Lewis & Clark Library in Helena is seeking subscription sponsors to help make up for a major decline in its book budget caused by the mill levy defeat. An editorial June 14 in the *Helena Independent-Record* exhorted the public to help out. The library closed on Mondays effective June 24 and raised fees on July 1.

Closing six hours each week is the **Augusta Branch Library**, also affected by the mill levy defeat.

Livingston Public Library received a grant to run four book discussion programs this fall.

Usage is way up and open hours have increased this summer at the **Lincoln County Public Library** in Libby and its branches in **Eureka** and **Troy**.

A computer link between the **Missoula Public Library** and **Seeley Lake Branch Library** later this summer will enable patrons to use the same card at either library.

Polson City Library will hold its sixth annual Bug Races in August.

Children at the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge and the **Glendive Public Library** were entertained in June by storyteller **Lorrie Monprode-Holt** of Helena.

Parmly Billings Library will be open eight more hours per week starting in September.

The **Fallon County Library** in Baker is offering monthly local weather information to patrons.

On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

Audiovisual Policies in College Libraries *Clip Note #14*, compiled by Kristine Brancolini, American Library Association, 1991 (025.177 Brancel);

Public Relations for School Library Media Centers (027.8 Public);

Library Displays Handbook (021.7 Schaeff);

The Bibliographic Record and Information Technology (025.316 Hagler);

Designing and Renovating School Library Media Centers (027.8 Klasing);

School Library Media Centers in Cooperative Automation Projects (027.8223 Drew);

Reference Collection Development: A Bibliography (025.27 Referen); *Collection Evaluation Techniques* (025.21 Kaag).



Children's Social Studies Book List Available

The Children's Book Council is offering a free reprint of the list "Notable 1990 Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies."

The list of 146 notable books written for children in grades K-8 was compiled by social studies educators and language arts specialists from almost 5,000 such titles published in 1990.

Single copies of the list are available by sending a stamped (75 cents), self-addressed 6x9" envelope to the Children's Book Council, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY, 10012.

Bill of Rights Exhibit Coming to Billings

An original copy of the Bill of Rights, written by James Madison, is the centerpiece of a 15,000-square-foot exhibit that will be on display at the Billings MetraPark Arena from July 25-28.

The free exhibit will be open to the public July 25-27 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on July 28 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. It includes video images of civil rights activists and material on civil liberties issues addressed by the Bill of Rights.

Honoring the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, the exhibit will have been on display in all 50 states by the time its tour ends in March 1992.

Ennis Library Completes Year-Long Project

Between May 1, 1990, and May 1, 1991, the Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis changed all the cards in more than 17,000 books and registered each patron with a number, said Library Director Edith McCormick.

Calendar of Events

July

- 19 Academic Cooperative Collection Development Committee, Billings
- 26 MLA Executive Board, Bozeman
- 27 MLA Continuing Education Committee, Bozeman

August

- 8-11 Pacific Northwest Library Association, Edmonton
- 9-11 Montana Authors Coalition statewide meeting, MSU, Bozeman
- 13 Federation Coordinators, White Sulphur Springs
- 14 State Library Commission, White Sulphur Springs

ALA Wants Humanities Programming Proposals

Library-based humanities program proposals on the "Let's Talk About It" reading and discussion model are being sought by the American Library Association.

Proposal deadline is August 15 for projects planned between January and July of 1992. For more information, contact Deb Robertson at 312-280-5057.

Around The State

Public Library Changes:
Departing--Bee Burns, director, Fallon County Library, Baker.

Academic Library Changes:
Arriving--Naseem Zahra Rahim, librarian, Stone Child College, Box Elder.

School Library Changes:
Arriving--Judy Stephenson, librarian; Judith Gap Schools.

Special Library Changes:
Departing--Wes Doak, state librarian, Oregon State Library.

Upcoming Conferences

"The Importance of Being Well-Connected: Information Transfer and Networks," Pacific Northwest Chapter, American Society for Information Science, September 27-28, Kelso, WA. Call Anne Passarelli at 206-524-6913 for details.

"The 21st Century: The Future of Rural and Small Libraries," November 14-16 in Birmingham, AL. Deadline is October 25; contact College of Continuing Education, Clarion University of PA, 108 Carrier Administration Bldg., Clarion, PA, 16214-1232.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

Lloyd Wallin,
Vice-Chair
Deer Lodge

Nancy Keenan
Billings

Anne Hauptman
Billings

Michael Schulz
Dillon

Vada Taylor
Glendive

Peggy Guthrie
Choteau

Commissioners' addresses are in the
Montana Library Directory

Richard T. Miller, Jr., *State Librarian*

Cathy Siegner, *Newsletter Editor*,
444-5353

Montana State Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Nonprofit Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 30
Helena, MT 59620

AL RANDALL
LIBRARIAN
LIBBY HIGH SCHOOL
150 EDUCATION WAY
LIBBY MT 59923